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An Internationally Accredited Agency
SHP-434 6/96

FARM SAFETY

A *safe*
farmer
is a
successful
farmer.

A message from the
Missouri State Highway Patrol



INTRODUCTION

Operating farm machinery on a highway is a risky business. The Missouri State Highway Patrol investigates hundreds of traffic crashes each year involving farm tractors and similar machinery. This informational booklet offers some traffic safety tips for operating farm machinery on roadways.

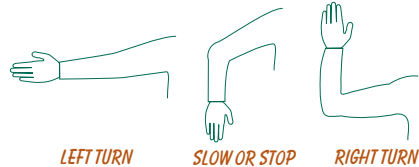
DRIVING ONTO OR ACROSS A HIGHWAY

Extra caution should be taken when driving farm machinery across or onto a main highway from a side road or lane. Before the driver can make his move safely, he must determine whether there is traffic approaching from either direction on the highway and then determine its speed. When there is any reasonable chance that the movement cannot be done safely, the prudent driver always will wait until the danger has passed.

DRIVING OFF A HIGHWAY

Driving farm machinery off a highway is another act that is dangerous if not accompanied by caution and good judgment. The driver, when preparing to make a turn off a highway, should remember that he is reducing his speed in order to make the turn while other vehicles are continuing at their speed. When turning off the highway, you should:

1. Signal your intentions to turn either by hand signals, electric signals, or both. Signals for turns or stops should be given far enough in advance so other drivers will have adequate time to avoid the collision.
2. Select the correct lane for making the turn; and when the turn can be made safely, do so without making wide or opposing turns.



DRIVING ON A HIGHWAY

Moving farm machinery on a highway under the best of conditions is hazardous. The driver of farm equipment, when traveling on a highway, must continually keep in mind that he is traveling at a very low speed compared with the speed of other vehicles. His slow speed allows him little chance to avoid a crash by maneuvering his machine. The driver must take certain precautions to protect himself and other motorists.

1. Anytime you are driving farm machinery on a highway, it should display a red flag atop a pole (12-14 ft. high) so the machine can be seen even though hidden by a rise or curve in the roadway.

2. When rounding curves, or anytime the view is restricted, the driver should drive as far to the right as possible.
3. Special precautions should be taken when driving on the highway during the morning and evening hours when the sun may blind other drivers. The late evening hours are extremely dangerous times to move farm equipment on the highway, and it should never be attempted unless absolutely necessary.
4. At any time traffic piles up behind the farm equipment, the driver should pull off to let traffic pass.
5. Railroad crossings are also a hazard to farmers. Never take a safe crossing for granted. STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, and LIVE!



MISSOURI LAW REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING EQUIPMENT

LIGHTS - Missouri law requires agricultural machinery or implements, road machinery, road rollers, tractor engines and farm tractors to be equipped during the times when lighted lamps are required with at least one lighted lamp or lantern exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, and such lamps shall exhibit lights to the sides of such vehicle.

SMV EMBLEM - Missouri law requires that no person shall operate on any public highway of this state any slow-moving vehicle or equipment after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, any animal-drawn vehicle, or any other machinery, designed for use or normally operated at speeds less than 25 miles per hour, unless there is displayed on the rear thereof an orange and red triangular shaped emblem.



SUMMARY

Farm drivers are no different from drivers in any other group — there are good ones and careless ones. Every driver, no matter what group, must comply with safety rules, obey traffic laws, exercise common sense, and practice courtesy to be sure his chances of driving and living are the best. There is no magic formula that will keep crashes from occurring. Traffic safety and a driver's life depend upon each individual driver furnishing his own safety program. All of the safety rules and laws combined won't save lives until they are used.